

The Weatherization Xpress

Letter from Paul Krievins:

In this issue's letter, I'd like to discuss the future of weatherization. So, let's take off our ARRA blinders for a minute (just for a paragraph or two!) and examine where our program is heading.

From Washington, we hear uncertainty about the future of funding for weatherization and other much needed social services programs. We hear about cuts in funding for our program that are anywhere between ten percent and 90 percent of current funding levels. But folks at the national level are also talking about incorporating weatherization into the larger concept of healthy homes and renewing their focus on training to create high-quality standardized skill sets for weatherization workers across the country.

Here in Indiana, we have experienced several recent changes to our program, such as implementing the new field guide and waiver audit, and expect several more to come in the next few months, including new policies on equipment rental and incidental repairs. We're also looking to maintain successful partnerships, such as the weatherization deferral program, and create new innovative partnerships between weatherization and other programs. Additionally, the state-wide Demand-Side Management (DSM) Program is moving forward and we can't wait to see the impact of our state's electric utilities on our energy efficiency programs, especially weatherization.

There is no denying that our program is changing... again. The flexibility and demonstrated success of our program has been our hallmark to-date—let's keep it that way no matter what comes our way.

-Paul



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HOW to Spend a Day Caring

For the past eight years, Housing Opportunities of Warsaw (HOW) and the United Way of Kosciusko county have partnered for the "Day of Caring", a one day event in which volunteers make repairs to homes across Kosciusko county. This year, 140 homes received repairs provided by more than 1,400 volunteers!

Robert Perkins' home was one of those homes. Mr. Perkins lives with respiratory conditions that require him to be on oxygen and received weatherization work through HOW in July. After an initial audit, it was discovered that the indoor air quality of the home suffered because of a crack in his furnace's heat exchanger and a wood stove that was used for supplemental heat. With weatherization funds, Mr. Perkins received a new furnace and now lives in a home with cleaner and safer air. He also received insulation from HOW and says he has a "new peace of mind".

But a new furnace and insulation is not all Mr. Perkins received. At the time of weatherization, HOW signed him up for the Day of Caring so that he could receive additional work on his home that cannot be covered with weatherization funds.

When the 35 Day of Caring volunteers arrived at Mr. Perkins' home in the morning, they found paint deteriorating on the home's exterior and poison ivy growing up the sides. When the volunteers left for the day, Mr. Perkins' home had a fresh coat of paint and was poison ivy free. He also had broken trellises removed, stucco patched, and flower boxes, shutters, and trim painted.

Mr. Perkins was very grateful for the work the volunteers and HOW staff did to his home over the past couple months. Wiping away tears, Mr. Perkins came outside and thanked the volunteers. Now Mr. Perkins not only has "peace of mind"—he has curb appeal!

Mr. Perkins with the 35 Day of Caring volunteers outside his house in Kosciusko County. He received weatherization work through HOW in July and a fresh coat of paint and other repairs on his home during the Day of Caring.

Housing Opportunities of Warsaw (HOW) partnered with United Way of Kosciusko County to repair homes around the county for a day of caring on August 17th.



BY THE NUMBERS: HEC Program Progress Report

- Homes weatherized: **18,949**
- Hoosiers served: **43,804**
- National ranking, percent of planned production: **20th**
- Percent of total award spent: **83.32%**
- Estimated product savings with Centralized Purchasing: **\$1,635,338.54**

Upcoming Dates

SATT— August 31st,

September 1st

Energy auditors are encouraged to attend one of these days of training. See the notice on this page for more information

ARRA Hours Created/Retained

Due— September 6th

Sub-grantees receiving ARRA funds must record jobs created & retained by 5:00pm

LIHEAP Grant Ends—

September 30th

Sub-grantees who received 2010-2011 LIHEAP funds must complete work on all LIHEAP houses no later than September 30th. Close-out forms are due to IHCD by 5:00pm November 30th.

LIHEAP 2011-2012 Grant

Start— October 1

LIHEAP funding for 2011-2012 will be distributed on a formula basis. New grant agreements are scheduled to be emailed near the end of September to Executive Directors for signatures.

Shelter Weatherization and Repair Program— Update

In each issue of *The WX*, we check in with the Shelter Weatherization and Repair Program to see how this innovative partnering of funds is impacting the state's shelters. Below are the stories of three of the 39 shelters receiving work through this program.

Family Service Society, Marion

This shelter focuses its service on mothers and children who are handicapped. The shelter was largely built by volunteers, which resulted in some creative solutions to problems they encountered, like the backyard patio constructed of plywood nailed to wooden pallets. Additionally, the duct work in the attic was never properly connected, causing hot and cold areas of the facility due to improper conditioned air delivery. Weatherization funds will be used to connect and seal the duct work to the supply vents so that the shelter's residents and staff can enjoy a consistent and comfortable living and working space.



Before: Plywood nailed to wooden pallets served as the backyard patio at a shelter geared for mothers or children using wheelchairs



After: Mothers and children in wheelchairs can now safely access the backyard, thanks to a new concrete slab provided by this program.

Gary Commission for Women

This emergency shelter accepts women and children escaping abusive situations 24 hours a day. Once stable, women and their families are moved to the shelter's transitional housing units. There are 16 units available for use—but only three are inhabitable. After work on the shelter wraps up, all 16 units will be available for use, thus enabling the shelter to assist more families.

YWCA of Evansville

When auditors ran blower door tests at the YWCA of Evansville, two windows fell out of their frames. In addition to women and children who are homeless, this shelter also housed one of Indiana's first indoor swimming pools. The humidity produced by the pool and its state of disrepair resulted in the board opting to close the pool in order to receive the much needed repairs outlined in the scope of work. The repairs made to this shelter will result in lower utility bills and a safer living and working environment for residents and staff.

Semi-Annual Technical Training

IHCD and INCAA are hosting two SATTs for energy auditors. These trainings will review ASHRAE 62.2, the final inspection process, the updated field guide, and other topic. Plan on sending your auditors to one of the following two trainings:

Wednesday, August 31st

REAL Services in South Bend

or

Thursday, September 1st

Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell

Registration is required. Contact Ray Judy or Shannon Frederick if you have not yet registered.

Waiver Audits Reminder!

IHCD has not yet received approval from DOE to begin using the site built and mobile home waiver audits printed in the 2011 edition of the Indiana Field Guide. **Continue to use the old priority lists at this time.** IHCD will notify sub-grantees when DOE approves the new priority lists. **Thank you for your patience!**

Claims Processing Success!

Thank you to the financial staff who worked to make IHCD's new online claims system a success! All sub-grantees have been approved for level II backup and Shonda is down to an average 3.5 day turnaround time for processing. Thank you for your hard work and cooperation in making this work!